

Iloglu 2003-0125

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 -17. (Cancel)

18. (Currently Amended) A method executed in an arrangement including a network that supports assigning systems to specified VPNs, which systems connect to edge routers of the network, which network includes collection, comprising one or more devices, that operates to insure that systems A and B of said systems that are each assigned to one or more VPNs but which have no commonly assigned VPN cannot communicate with each other, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message from an application of a type for which inter-VPN communication is allowed, indicating a desire to establish communication between said systems A and B;

directing said collection to install a modification having whose effect is to allow communication between said systems A and B; and

directing said collection to remove said modification at a later time to reinstate prohibition against communication between said systems A and B;

where said directing said collection to install a modification comprises a step of installing a entry in a VPN route and forward (VRF) table that is associated with edge router A of said edge routes through which said system A is coupled to said network, and installing an entry in a VRF table that is associated with edge router B of said edge routes through which said system B is coupled to said network; and

~~The method of claim 17~~ where said entry that is installed in said VRF associated with said edge router A comprises an indication that system B belongs to a VPN to which system A belongs, and said entry that is installed in said VRF associated with said edge router B comprises an indication that system A belongs to a VPN to which system B belongs.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 where said entry that is installed in said VRF associated with said edge router A further comprises a route indication for reaching system B, and said entry that is installed in said VRF associated with said edge router B further comprises a route indication for reaching system A.

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20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 where said entry that is installed in said VRF associated with said edge router A further comprises a route criterion for limiting traffic that is destined to system B solely to traffic that pertains to said application.

21. (Cancel)